Although extracurricular classes in religion are now permitted, the local Communist authorities not only wage intensive anti-religious and anti-Church propaganda against them, but they also try to use every means of coercion to keep parents from sending their children to these classes. 659 871

Since the 1948-49 wave of persecution, ecclesiastical authorities have been forced to compromise; they have agreed to sign acts of loyalty and to tolerate the government sponsored "peace-priest" movement. Nevertheless, in the rural areas, resistance to Communism is still centered around the local church. In spite of the official attitude, there are no signs yet to indicate a relaxation of the devotion or the stubborn adherence to the church of the traditionally pious Magyar peasants -- men and women alike. 659 771

Among the peasantry, the teaching of the basic tenets of religion to the child has been traditionally the mother's duty, and the growing child can observe, at home, the example of his elders. Meals, important activities and everyday labor are always introduced and followed by a short prayer. At the table, the sign of the cross accompanies the cutting of the fresh loaf of bread. When church bells ring, the women cross themselves and men remove their hats. The Catholic home always displays religious pictures and a font; Protestants ornament the main living room with the family Bible. 788 771 [869]